



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**State Fire Marshal Division**  
**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Policy #: INS ED – 07 (2007)	Subject of Policy: Portable Heaters in Educational Occupancies		
Reviewed and Approved By: Jerry Rosendahl	Title: State Fire Marshal		Revised Date: July 10, 2007

**APPLIES TO:**

All Inspection Personnel, Inspection Supervisors, Code/Plans Specialists.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide for uniform application of state fire code provisions relating to portable electric heaters used in educational (K-12) occupancies.

**POLICY:**

**SECTION 1 – PORTABLE HEATERS IN SCHOOLS**

The Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) prohibits un-vented (or ventless) fuel fired heaters in Group E occupancies. All electric space heaters must be listed by a nationally recognized testing agency (Underwriters Laboratories, Factory Mutual, etc.), be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and be in proper working order. In addition, heaters shall be provided with high temperature cut-offs and tip-over switches.

Portable heaters allowed in schools:

- Oil-filled
- Ceramic heaters
- These types must have high temperature cut-offs and tip-over switches

Examples:



Portable heaters not allowed in schools:

- LP Gas
- Kerosene
- Electric heaters with a glowing or exposed heating element

Examples:

